



Vol. 46, No. 6 • 374th Airlift Wing • Yokota Air Base, Japan • Friday, Feb. 18, 2005

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New commander arrives at USFJ/5AF

Former ACC vice commander takes reins from retiring general

By Maj. Eric Hilliard
 5th Air Force Public Affairs

On Feb. 10, U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force welcomed a new commander, Lt. Gen. Bruce Wright.

General Wright becomes the 21st general officer to hold the title of USFJ commander and the 34th general officer to command HQ 5th Air Force.

In the change of command ceremony in which the former vice commander of Air Combat Command became the ranking officer for all Japan-based U.S. military forces, General Wright said being back in Japan feels more like a home coming.

"It's good to be back," he said. His previous tours in Japan include assignments as the commander of Misawa Air Base's 35th Fighter Wing, the director of operations for U.S. Forces Japan at Yokota Air Base, and an F-4 instructor pilot at Kadena Air Base.

General Wright said his priorities are people, commitment to

professionalism and combat readiness, and explained how each factor has an impact on the others.

"My philosophy is if we put our people first, then all else will get done, and done well," he said.

"I expect absolute commitment to joint and bilateral combat readiness and an unwavering commitment to the highest levels of professionalism 24 hours a day," General Wright said. "Our values define who we are; they underpin everything that we do and everything we are able to do and bring to the mission here in Japan."

He underscored his point by addressing the vital relationship the United States has with Japan and how our bilateral efforts proved very successful in operations like Enduring Freedom and Unified Assistance with historic deployments by the Japan Self Defense Force. "The U.S.-Japan relationship is the most important alliance in the world at this point in history, said General Wright.

By working closely together with our Japan Self Defense Force counterparts, we contribute in a unique and significant way to stability in this part of the world and defense of the sovereignty of our nations."

General Wright also spoke of commitment: to ensuring the men and women of U.S. Forces Japan are committed to being professional, committed to taking care of each other and their families, and committed to zero safety-related mishaps and fatalities.

General Wright reiterated how honored he was to be back in Japan -- to work with and lead world-class Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast guardsmen in his command. He also acknowledged that he and his wife Kerri are looking forward to rekindling previous relationships with the men and women of Japan.

He concluded, "When you make friends here in Japan, they are your friends for the rest of your life."



photo by Airman Javier Cruz

Navy Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, passes the U.S. Forces-Japan flag to Lt. Gen. Bruce Wright. The commander assumed command of USFJ and Fifth Air Force Feb. 10 during a change-of-command ceremony at Hangar 15.

Yokota C-21 aircraft returns from tsunami support

By Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik
 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The final Yokota aircraft deployed for Operation Unified Assistance returned Tuesday to a crowd of fellow 459th Airlift Squadron members and wing command staff.



photo by 1st Lt. Ben Alumbaugh

First Lt. Robert Ford and Capt. Brooke Page, both 459 AS pilots, return from Utapao Thailand Tuesday after supporting Operation Unified Assistance.

The C-21A Learjet was the second from the 459th AS to return from Utapao and the last of the Yokota aircraft to return home.

"It's great to have our last airplane back from Operation Unified Assistance, which was a marvelous team effort," said Col. Carlton Everhart, 374th Operations Group commander. "Within days of the tragic tsunami event that we were able to deploy eight C-130s and two C-21s to support the humanitarian relief."

Although most of the attention was focused on the C-130 Hercules, aircrews, maintainers and support personnel deployed for the relief operations, the two C-21 aircraft flown by seven aircrew members and support personnel made significant contributions to the operation.

The two aircraft were

flown by three separate crews and supported by three members including Indonesian interpreter. The crews transported more than 129 passengers with 31 distinguished visitors during 21 missions including 58 sorties.

"The tone for the entire operation was set within the first few days when Col. (Mark) Schissler called us together and told us that everyone was going to have to pitch in for the whole Team Yokota effort and nowhere was that more true than here in the 459th," said Maj. Thad Hunkins, 459 AS director of operations. "There was not one person in the entire squadron who didn't help to get the entire operation underway. It really paid off because Jan. 1 we were called and within three hours we had a C-21 in the air on its way to Utapao."

Some of the distinguished visitors the C-21s airlifted included the Combined Task Force 536 commander, Pacific Air Forces' director of operations, 13th Air

Force commander, and various U.S. State Department and United Nations officials. The aircrews flew to locations throughout the region including Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Sumatra, Philippines, and Singapore.

"It's wonderful to be back," said Capt. Brooke Page, 459 AS pilot. "I'm very grateful to have had this opportunity to help out the tsunami victims in the way that we did."

Yokota's direct support of Operation Unified Assistance ended with the return of the 459 AS members and aircraft.

"It was an awesome combined effort by everybody," said 1st Lt. Robert Ford, 459 AS co-pilot. "This was an excellent opportunity to get the 459th out there and show people what we can do as a squadron. It was a very positive experience overall -- just seeing some of the devastation over there and giving a humanitarian contribution was overwhelming for me to be there in that capacity."

Remembering deployed loved ones



photo by Master Sgt. Val Gempis

Yokota community members take a moment of prayer for deployed troops and family members during a candlelight vigil at the Yokota Community Center Feb. 11. The Yokota Cares Committee and Family Support Center sponsored the event, which featured vocal performances by the Yokota High School. Yokota has deployed more than 250 servicemembers to locations across the globe since December 2004.

Animal bites pose health risk

By Maj. (Dr.) Andrew Moore
374th Medical Operations Squadron

Animal bites are a common injury, especially in the spring and summer months.

Each day in the United States there are approximately 900 emergency department visits for dog bites alone. In most cases the animal is known to the victim and the animal bit after some type of provocation. Most bites will heal without complication but there are a few scenarios that are unique and require medical evaluation.

Animals will typically bite when they feel threatened. They

may also bite when awakened suddenly from sleep or disturbed while eating. If an animal bites without being provoked, the animal may be suffering from a disease, particularly rabies. Victims should be evaluated in an emergency department. The security police should also notified of the animal even though Japan is listed as a rabies-free country.

Cat bites are also a unique injury that should get early medical evaluation and treatment. These bites have a 30 to 80 percent infection rate because of a bacteria found in feline mouths. Cat teeth are also known for causing deep

wound infections requiring surgical treatment and prolonged antibiotics.

Dog bites cause lacerations, and have less than a five percent chance of infection. Dog bites require medical care if they are large, deep, or involve the face.

If bitten, community members should scrub the wound with a mild soap solution or hydrogen peroxide, cover it with a dry dressing, and make sure tetanus vaccines are current.

For more information or questions about animal bites, community members can contact their primary care provider.

Airmen graduate leadership school

Information provided by base Airman Leadership School

Congratulations to the following senior airmen and staff sergeants who graduated from Airman Leadership School Feb. 10: **Daniel Cain**, 374th Maintenance Squadron, John Levitow Award; **Lakeisha Foggie**, 374th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Distinguished Graduate and Academic Achievement; **Daniel McKeown**, 374th Security Forces Squadron, Distinguished Graduate; and **David Barger**, 374th SFS, Leadership Award.

Letisha Almaguer, Det. 1, 715th Air Mobility Operations Group; **James Avery**, 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron; **Jonathan Baysa**, 374th Communications Squadron; **David Bricker**, 374th LRS; **Jack Byers**, 374th Airlift Wing; **Jose Cabrera**, 374th

Medical Operations Squadron; **Anthony Faircloth**, 374th LRS; **Jason Goetz**, 374th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; **Kimberly Green**, 20th Operational Weather Squadron; **Nicholas Hopper**, 374th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; **Carrie Joslyn**, 374th Medical Operations Squadron; **Chad McBee**, 374th CS; **Raymond Norris**, 459th Airlift Squadron; **Yancy Perkins**, Det. 2, Pacific Air Forces Air Postal Squadron; **Timothy Price**, 374th Security Forces Squadron; **Eric Ramos**, 374th Maintenance Squadron; **Eric Schmidt**, 374th Civil Engineer Squadron; **Casey Steuber**, Operating Location C, 374th Communications Squadron; **Nickolas Tafoya**, 374th LRS; **Joshua Trice**, 374th CS; **Clay Vanblount**, 374th LRS; and **Matthew Yardley**, 374th CES.

College grants offered to Airmen's families:

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – Air Force Aid Society officials

said they are offering as many as 4,500 college education grants to Air Force family members through the Gen. Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program.

Applications for the \$1,500 need-based grants must be received by March 11.

Selection is heavily based on cost of attendance, family income and the number of eligibility applicants competing. A final need assessment will be made by an independent agency.

Students can find an application and review full eligibility requirements, procedures and application instructions on the society's Web site at www.afas.org. They also can call (800) 429-9475 for an application brochure.

NEWS AROUND THE AIR FORCE & PACAF

For these stories and more, visit Air Force Link at www.af.mil

General Jumper testifies on 2006 Air Force posture, budget: WASHINGTON – Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper testified Feb. 10 before the Senate Committee on Armed Services on the defense authorization request for fiscal 2006.

The four service chiefs provided posture statements and answered questions about how each branch developed their portion of next year's budget.

President George W. Bush delivered his defense budget request for \$419.3 billion to Congress on Feb. 7. The proposed \$102.9 billion Air Force budget represents a real growth of about \$4 billion over the fiscal 2005 budget of \$96 billion after adjustment for inflation and rising fuel costs.

Inspector General investigates eight Air Force contracts:

WASHINGTON -- Eight Air Force defense contracts

not previously identified for in-depth review have been referred to the Department of Defense inspector general for investigation.

The referral resulted from a review by Defense Contract Management Agency officials of 407 contracts under the control of or influenced by former Air Force acquisition official Darleen Druyun. She previously pleaded guilty to violating laws affecting personal and financial interests related to job negotiations with the Boeing Co. while a government employee. Ms. Druyun was sentenced to nine months in federal prison in November. The criminal case raised alarms about her involvement in numerous Air Force contracts.

AD

Base recognized for clean-up efforts

Local organization offers thanks for Tokorozawa help

By Capt. David Westover
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 374th Airlift Wing was recently recognized for its clean up of a 21,000-gallon diesel fuel spill that occurred August 31, at the Tokorozawa Communication Site located approximately 20 miles east of base.

At the wing's annual award banquet, the Japan-America Air Force Goodwill Association presented Col. Douglas Kreulen, 374th Airlift Wing vice commander, a plaque and a letter of recognition highlighting the efforts of the 374th Civil Engineer Environmental Flight, the 374th Contracting Squadron and the 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs staff for

the "outstanding contribution made to the vital Japan-US security partnership."

"Your distinctive efforts reflect the highest standards of respect and professionalism as you and your team promptly responded to the Tokorozawa diesel fuel spill," said retired Gen. Koji Muraki, the president of JAAGA and former Japan Air Self Defense Force Chief of Staff. "Your dedication and immediate concern for the citizens of Tokorozawa City were evident from the onset of the incident, and the cooperation between the 374th Airlift Wing, local city and government officials exemplified your dedication and willingness to quickly remedy the situation."

Within hours of receiving word of the spill, 374th AW senior leadership were on sight, coordinating with the Tokorozawa City Fire Department as well as the Tokyo Defense Facilities Administration Bureau, to determine steps to safeguard the local residents and prevent further contamination.

"During each phase of the clean-up effort, you and your staff regularly provided updated information to local officials, which greatly helped to alleviate the fears and concerns of the Japanese citizens residing in Tokorozawa City," said General Muraki. "Your willingness to respond to the questions and concerns from both government and city officials, as well as the news media, created a solid working relationship built on trust and understanding."

Kajima Road Company, Ltd. entered into a contract agreement with the U.S. Air Force and completed the remediation on Dec. 20 at a total cost of \$1.5 million.

DoD: New civilian personnel rules published

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – Officials from the Department of Defense and the Office of Personnel Management will publish the regulations that will govern how the new National Security Personnel System will operate, DOD officials said Feb. 10.

The proposed regulations will appear in the Federal Register Feb. 14, and officials invite comment.

The publication marks the end of the first phase of imple-

menting the new personnel system. The system, enacted by Congress in 2003, will allow DOD officials to better manage civilian personnel, they said. Once in place, DOD officials will be able to shift people among jobs, hire faster and reward good workers.

Dan Blair, the OPM's acting director, said the new rules will not change merit-system protections, whistle-blower protections, veterans preference, benefits, rules against prohibited practices or leave and work schedules.

(For more information on the civilian personnel changes, visit www.af.mil or the base Civilian Personnel Office.)

E-6 discharged for sexual violations

By Capt. David Westover
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A general court-martial panel found a Yokota staff sergeant guilty of rape, sodomy and indecent acts during a trial that ended here Feb. 12.

Staff Sgt. Linwood W. Burton, Jr., of the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron, was given a dishonorable discharge and sentenced to confinement for eight years, total forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and a reduction to the grade of E-1.

"This case involved what is commonly known as date or acquaintance rape," said Lt Col. Ron Ratton, 374th Airlift Wing Staff Judge Advocate. "The victim knew her assailant and was willingly present in his home. Although the victim consented to kissing, the court members found that Staff Sgt. Burton had sexual intercourse with the victim by force and without her consent."

In addition to the Feb. 27, 2004 rape of a senior airmen at or near Tachikawa City, Tokyo, Burton was also charged with attempting to rape, forcibly sodomizing and indecently assaulting a civilian at or near Venice, Italy on Sept. 28, 2000. He was found guilty of the lesser-included-offenses of sodomy and indecent acts.

The court-martial lasted 4 days. The eight-member panel, which was made up of officers and enlisted members, deliberated for one day before finding Staff Sgt Burton guilty, and for another half day to determine an appropriate sentence.

AD

Help children 'surf' internet safely

Software, parental supervision protects from predators, dangers

By Maj. Stephen Landry
374th Communications Squadron

As of June 2004, it was estimated that 66.2 percent of households have a computer. Of those, 53.7 percent are connected to the internet and 90.2 percent of the young people surveyed use a computer on a regular basis.

In fact, it has become a cultural norm in the United States to own and use a computer for all sorts of benefits including: referencing information, conducting financial transactions, making travel arrangements, paying bills and shopping, communicating with family and friends, utilizing it for educational and entertainment purposes and play an unlimited number of computer games.

However, in addition to all of the benefits of the internet there are risks and most of these risks involve our children. Risks our

children face on the internet include: exposure to inappropriate material; racial, sexual, physical or religious harassment; exposure to drugs, alcohol, tobacco and other dangers; illegal activity; password security; and identity theft to name a few. Teenagers are most vulnerable because they typically use the computer unsupervised and are more likely to discuss topics such as companionship, relationships or sexual activity.

We as parents need to talk to our children about the dangers on the internet and to set realistic expectations and rules for going online.

Some basic rules parents should teach their children are:

✓ *never give out any personal information without your parent's permission;*

✓ *never agree to meet someone you met online without*

your parents knowledge;
✓ *never send a picture or any file to someone you do not know without your parent's permission and never respond to e-mails or messages that make you feel uncomfortable.*

Parents must try to understand our children's needs, interest and curiosity. Parents need to encourage their children to trust them and let them know they can approach them if they encounter any problems online.

Parents should try to learn everything they can about the internet. Parents can get involved by asking their children to show them what's cool online and have them show their favorite online sites.

Another method to help protect your family is to install internet filtration software. This software not only restricts where your child can surf on the internet, but it also provides anti-virus, firewall, privacy control and anti-spam protection for your computer. One important thing to realize is that filtering software

cannot protect your child from all of the dangers on the internet and parents still need to monitor and know what and where their children are surfing in the cyberzone.

Recently, Congress and the Department of Justice have recognized the importance of keeping America's children safe on the internet. They have mandated a program titled "I Safe" to ensure that children learn how to protect themselves while on the internet. The three main goals of "I Safe" are: to empower students to control their internet safety; to provide awareness so students can avoid dangers, destructive, inappropriate or unlawful internet behavior and respond appropriately; and to prepare students to make knowledgeable and informed decisions in absence of filters and parental supervision.

Yokota's children with the aide of parents, teachers and community leaders are being taught how to safely utilize the internet.

Combat lessons every Airman should know

By Staff Sgt. Lee Watts
20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. (AFPN) – There I was, deployed in the war on terrorism, when I found myself under attack, again! I am not a pilot or a security forces troop; I do most of my work in an office; but while in Iraq, I had to repeatedly face enemy fire nonetheless.

If you are in the military, you can expect to deploy. It is what we train for. Whether you work in an office, on the flightline or have some other job, training with a warrior's mindset here at home can keep you alive when you are under attack.

When you literally see the rockets' red glare and bombs bursting in air, there is no time to think. Your training, or lack thereof, will take over.

During exercises, do you ever grumble about having to wear the helmet or flak vest for hours? Are you one of those Airmen who takes it off when no one's looking? Yes, it is uncomfortable; but let me stress why we all need to train the way we fight.

A few weeks ago I was in Baghdad and was headed to the gym, which was a short walk from the trailers where we slept. I will

admit, it looks ridiculous wearing a t-shirt, running shorts and sneakers with body armor and a helmet. But while outdoors, orders were to always wear your protective gear.

It was a quiet night, but halfway there, four rockets broke the silence. They came without warning; no alarms sounded until after the explosions began. That night, I chose to put on the uncomfortable armor. A guy 50 yards to my right did not. Today, I am safely home with my family; he is not. His family must now go on without him.

Orders are for a reason. Following them saved my life, and not following them cost another man his.

Train the way you fight! We are all given orders to go to training. The military provides the training, but your mindset determines its effectiveness. Have you trained for war or just checked a box?

Whether it be self-aid and buddy care, chemical warfare or small arms, treat your training as if your life depends on it. It may.

Right now, if the bullets started flying, could you quickly clear a jam in your weapon and get it operational again? This "office" Airman had to do that. Could you treat someone going into shock? When car-

bomb shock waves hit my building, that scenario became real.

During a Phase II exercise, when you're showing new Airmen how to do unexploded-ordnance sweeps, are you showing them exactly the way you want them to check around your tent when it really counts? There were more than 100 sweeps in the short time I was there.

During attacks, your training will take over, and so will the training you have provided to others. When mortars begin to fall, it is too late to prepare. Whatever preparations you make now will be all you have then.

In Baghdad, it was obvious who was fit to fight both physically and mentally. They had trained with a warrior mindset and came to the fight combat-ready.

In this war, fear is the enemy's greatest weapon. The terrorists want us to be afraid: afraid to fly, afraid to visit our own monuments, afraid the costs will be too high to see this fight through to the end.

The way to defeat our enemy is clear. In the fight against terrorism, Thomas Paine once said, "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it."



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Deadlines

The deadline for articles, briefs and classifieds is Wednesday the week before publication. For holidays, the deadline is one day earlier.

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DUI Prevention

Feb. 9 – Feb. 15	1
Total DUIs in February	1
Total in 2005	3

Punishment

.049 or less = car parked for 12 hours
.05-.079 = 6 months walking
.081-.149 = 1 year walking
0.15 or greater = 2 years walking

*Don't
drink and drive.
Call 225-RIDE!*

Action Line

The Action Line is your direct line to me. Use it if you have questions or comments about Yokota, which couldn't be resolved by your chain of command first. When you send an e-mail, please include your name and phone number so you can be reached if more information is needed.

E-mail: action.lines@yokota.af.mil

Col. Mark Schissler
374th Airlift Wing Commander

The Fussa Brass Band and the Pacific Showcase join forces for the second annual Fussa-Yokota Friendship Concert, and they agree that this year's concert was . . .



photo by Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas

Above, Master Sgt. Eric Horne, Pacific Showcase's noncommissioned officer-in-charge, times Master Sgt. Peter Harrison, pianist, as he pounds out a solo during a rendition of Slide's Dearrangement, an American Jazz piece. Right, Capt. Daniel Price, Band of the Pacific-Asia commander, conducts the Fussa Brass Band and Pacific Showcase combined band at the concert Sunday.

Worth the wait

By 1st Lt. Warren Comer
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A Friendship Concert was held in Fussa City on Sunday between the United States Air Force Band of the Pacific-Asia's Pacific Showcase and the Fussa Wind Ensemble.

This was the second year that both bands have come together to promote friendship between people living in Fussa and at Yokota Air Base.

Col. Mark Schissler, 374th Airlift Wing commander, spoke to the audience before the concert began, thanking everyone for their understanding and support during recent humanitarian relief operations in South-east Asia.

"Yokota (Airmen) airlifted food, water, blankets and medical supplies," said Colonel Schissler.

"We worked with the Japan Air Self Defense Force as well. Many countries worked towards the same goal of tsunami relief. We are deeply honored to have taken part in Operation Unified Assistance," he said.

The event, sponsored by the Fussa Yokota Goodwill Exchange Club, had about 500 attendees who listened to numerous songs to include, "One in a Million You" and

a medley of songs from "The Lion King."

"Music has no borders," said Yahachiro Ishikawa, FYGEC president. "It can impress people all over the world despite language and cultural differences. Music is wonderful in the way it can cultivate friendship."

The concert started with the Pacific Showcase playing renditions of popular songs for Valentine's Day. The Fussa Wind Ensemble then followed with popular songs to include a highly popular Japanese song called, "Festal Scenes."

To conclude, both bands joined each other on stage and played the rest of the concert as a whole. During each song, both Capt. Daniel Price, PACAF band conductor, and Conductor Shigeto Ishizu from the Fussa Wind Ensemble traded places to lead the entire group in their final songs.

As the concert came to a close, the crowd began to clap loudly until both conductors agreed to an encore. As the final song was played, not a single person wasn't clapping after the performance that gave Americans and Japanese a chance to meet together in friendship.

"(Music) can impress people all over the world despite language and cultural differences. Music is wonderful in the way it can cultivate friendship."

Yahachiro Ishikawa

Fussa-Yokota Goodwill Exchange Club, president



photo by Capt. David Westover

AD

On Base

Movies

Today – *Pooh's Movie*, G, 6 p.m.

Saturday – *Lemoney Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*, PG, 9 p.m.

Sunday – *Pooh's Movie*, G, 2 p.m., *Spanglish*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Monday – *Pooh's Movie*, G, 7 p.m., *Lemoney Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*, PG, 7 p.m.

Tuesday – *Pooh's Movie*, G, 7 p.m.

Wednesday – *Spanglish*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Thursday – *Spanglish*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

All movies and showtimes are subject to change without notice. For more information, call 225-8708.

Closures

The base legal office will be closed Feb. 22 for an official function. For more information, call 225-8118.

Survey

Active duty members and dependents are encouraged to take the Living Pattern Survey at <https://141.116.74.201/oscola/lps/japan/>. The survey impacts the Cost of Living Allowance here. The survey takes 30 minutes to complete, and it will be conducted until March 1.

Volunteers needed

The Yokota Middle School is seeking volunteers to give occupation presentations for Career Day March 4. For more information or to sign up, call 225-9671.

The American Red Cross is looking for volunteers to help with an antique sale Feb. 25-27. To volunteer, call 225-8631.

Volunteer recognition

The Family Support Center is accepting nomination packages for the 2004 Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards through March 16.

For more information or to pick up a nomination package, call 225-8725 or the visit the FSC.

Bazaar

The Yokota High School Parent-Teacher Organization* is having an Asian bazaar March 5 and 6 at the high school's media center.

College fair

The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is hosting a free Historically Black College and University fair Feb. 26 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Family Support Center. For more information, call 225-3746.

Tax season

The Yokota Tax Center opens Monday in Tower 3002 in the west housing area. The center will be open Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Community members who are filing 1040EZs will be seen on a first come, first serve basis. Community members who are filing all other forms must make an appointment, which begin Feb. 14. For more information, call 225-4926.

Volunteers are needed to serve as Unit Tax Assistants. Community members are encouraged to support this program. Military volunteers should contact their first sergeant and civilian volunteers should contact the base legal office at 225-8069.

Meetings

The Latin American Club* will meet tonight at building 915 at 7 p.m. Community members are encouraged to join. For more information, call 225-7089.

The Computer Users Group of Yokota* is having a LAN party Feb. 26 at the Yujo Recreation Center beginning at 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.cugy.net.

The Air Force Sergeants Association* is holding its monthly meeting Feb. 28 at the Enlisted Club from 8 to 9 a.m. All enlisted members, including active duty, reserve and guard, are invited to attend. For more information, call 225-7007.

The Filipino American Association* is holding its monthly meeting Feb. 19 at the Traditional Chapel beginning at 6 p.m. Community members are encouraged to attend the meeting. For more information, visit <http://home.attmil.ne.jp/b/fil-am/index.html>.

Give Parents a Break

Community members can sign up for the Feb. 26 "Give Parents a Break" program through today. The program gives parents with deployed spouses time off while their children are watched by the Children Development Center for free. For more information, visit the Family Support Center or call 225-8725.

President's Day

The Yokota Commissary will be open Monday for regular business hours for the convenience of community members.

Scholarship

The Yokota Officers' Spouses Club* is sponsoring scholarships for SOFA-sponsored Yokota High School seniors and continuing education spouses who will attend college in the fall. Interested applicants can visit the YOSC Web site at <http://www.yosc.org> to view eligibility requirements and download an application. For more information, e-mail isbetkijima@hotmail.com or call 227-3170.

Open house

The Flight Training Center is hosting an open house Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m. at Hangar 1505. All community members are invited to attend this annual event and learn about the services the center has to offer.

Marital workshop

Family Advocacy is hosting a

marital enrichment workshop for couples Feb. 22, and March 1 and 8 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Taiyo Recreation Center. Topics include how to build and protect a marriage and how to manage conflict with speaker-listener techniques. For more information or to sign up, call 225-3648.

Internet services

JENS has recently upgraded its internet connection equipment to solve recurring access problems. Community members can contact JENS at hotline@jensmil.jp or call 241-4242 with any questions or concerns about the service upgrades.

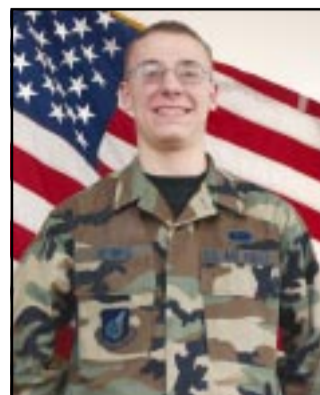
Chapel events

Protestant Women of the Chapel is holding a regional training conference March 3 through 6 at the Taiyo Recreation Center. The conference includes information about women's ministry, spiritual growth and the role PWOC plays at military installations across the globe. Women age 18 and older can attend. For more information, e-mail paradocs@yta.attmil.ne.jp.

Samurai Warrior



of the Week



Airman Basic Darrin Bower

Airman Basic Darrin Bower, 374th Mission Support Squadron, is this week's Samurai Warrior of the Week for displaying the Bushido qualities of sincerity and respect for one's word of honor and self control.

Airman Bower is responsible for the wing's Enlisted Promotion Program. His commendable job aggressiveness and dedication ensures the wing's enlisted members meet the promotion eligibility criteria prior to pinning on the next rank. He is also responsible for updating the personnel data system to ensure members receive pay according to their grade and avoid pay problems.

Chapel Schedule

Traditional (West) Chapel

Catholic: Reconciliation, Sundays at 8:45 a.m., 4:45 p.m. and by appointment. Mass, Sundays at 9:15 a.m., 5 p.m.; Mondays through Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.

Protestant: Traditional service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Liturgical service Sundays at 6:30 p.m.; Korean service, Sundays at 2 p.m.

Other faiths: Baha'i, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Contemporary (East) Chapel

Protestant: Gospel service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Contemporary service, Sundays at 5 p.m.

Other faiths: Seventh Day Adventist, second and fourth Saturdays of the month at 9 a.m.; Islam, Fridays at noon.

For more information on the chapel schedule, call 225-7009 during duty hours.

PO disclaimer

An asterisk (*) denotes a private organization. All POs and PO activities are not endorsed by or affiliated with the US Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

Did you know?

To report suspicious activities or crime, contact the 374th Security Forces Squadron's Law Enforcement Desk at 225-7227.

AD

“Quotes” & Things

“I’ve got a lot of people rooting for me because there are more poor people than rich people.”

Lee Trevino

Special Olympics: The Special Olympics Committee is looking for people to help greet and assist with the arrival of Team U.S.A. Special Olympics Feb. 22 at the AMC terminal. Volunteers are needed to carry baggage, to escort athletes, and to help with refreshments. For more information or to volunteer, e-mail gerald.morey@yokota.af.mil.

Closures: Yokota and Wilkins Fields are off-limits until March 14, and the youth fields are off-limits until March 7. Maintenance is being accomplished on the fields for the upcoming baseball season.

Football: The Yokota Raiders tackle football team is looking for new players, coaches and managerial staff. The first meeting will be in February. All SOFA-status personnel are welcome to participate. For more information, e-mail jacob.dowdell@yokota.af.mil or wolff.j@poem.ocn.ne.jp.

Wrestling show: International Championship Wrestling will visit Yokota Feb. 26 and 27. Tickets for both adult and family shows go on sale Monday. For more information, call 225-3308.

Baseball: The Yokota Hawks Baseball Club is seeking four players to fill out their 2005 roster. Games last through November. Tryouts will be held Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. at Yokota Field. Participants must be 18 years or older to play. E-mail dcapps@asia.umuc.edu for more information.

Former Negro Baseball League player visits

By Master Sgt. Val Gempis
Air Force Print News

Dennis Biddle captivated an audience of high school students here Feb. 9 when he spoke about the unwritten history of

Negro Baseball League.

“We sat at the back of the bus, we couldn’t eat inside restaurants, and we also slept in the bus because we weren’t allowed to stay in hotels,” said Mr. Biddle, a former star pitcher for the league.



photo by Master Sgt. Val Gempis

Dennis Biddle, center, signs autographs for Yokota High School students during a presentation Feb. 9. Mr. Biddle was pitcher in the Negro Baseball League from for three seasons during the 1950s. He now travels across the world telling the league’s story.

“It’s important for kids to learn our history. Most of them don’t know or understand what we went through to open the door for today’s major league players.”

In 1953, Biddle, a 17-year-old right-handed pitcher, became the youngest league player when he signed with the Chicago American Giants. He won 16 games during his first year and went 15-4 the next season before his contract was purchased by the Chicago Cubs.

Unfortunately, his career ended when he broke his ankle while sliding to third base before the 1955 season. After baseball, he attended college and worked as a social worker for 24 years.

In 1995, Mr. Biddle was invited to attend the 75th anniversary of the league in Kansas City, Mo. He learned that very few of the 314 players still living had retirement and medical benefits.

He also said he discovered the “Negro League” name was never protected even though memora-

bilias and merchandise using it was being sold.

Anyone could use the name and make a profit, and there were rackets out there claiming to represent the players, he said.

In 1996, the remaining players, led by Mr. Biddle, copyrighted the Yesterday’s Negro League Baseball Players Foundation to help former players get benefits. The foundation offers various memorabilia such as signed baseballs, posters, calendars and bats, and it uses the donations to assist those in need.

Today, the 69-year-old pitcher, who resides in Milwaukee, travels the country visiting colleges, schools and military bases. This is his first tour of Japan.

“I believe that God didn’t put me on this earth ... just to play baseball. I’m here to make sure that young people know the true story of Negro Baseball League. That’s my true work,” Mr. Biddle said.

‘Snowing’ up winter pastimes in Japan

Outdoor Rec offers trips, tips for hitting slopes this season

By 1st Lt. Warren Comer
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

In Japan, snow sports are probably the most popular recreational pastime throughout the country with over 500 ski resorts blanketing the Japanese Alps across the islands of Honshu and Hokkaido.

Less than four hours by car from Yokota Air Base, you can find a number of slopes used in previous Olympic games.

Also, some areas on Hokkaido reported an average snow depth up to 230 centimeters this year. With that much snow waiting for the intrepid adventurer, there’s no wonder many people from Yokota Air Base use Outdoor Recreation to fill their snow appetite.

“We do everything we can to find discount fares,” said Joe Heinrichs, Outdoor Recreation director. “We also do everything we can do find discount fares.”

Outdoor Recreation is in the middle of their ski season, offering some multi-day trips, but focusing more on one-day bus rides to many popular ski destinations. Ranging from areas around Mt. Fuji, Nagano and Niigata Prefectures, a large number of resorts offer skiers of every skill level the chance to tailor their trips accordingly.

“There are many beautiful places to visit,” said Yoshimasa Nakamura, Outdoor Recreation program manager.

According to Mr. Nakamura, many re-

sorts still have a very local flavor to them and that skiers should plan ahead before making the trip.

The best part of a Japanese skiing experience is that afterwards skiers can slip into an onsen to relax, said Mr. Heinrichs.

Even when you’re busy at work and can’t go far from the office, ski and snowboard fanatics have the opportunity to swoosh down an indoor slope at the Seibu Dome about 45 minutes from the base. There’s even a discount available through the Yujo Recreations Center.

While the weekends tend to be a little more crowded on the slopes, but there’s still enough room to enjoy yourself at the bigger resorts. Community members should take trips during the week to avoid the weekend crowds.

For a list of available ski trips offered, stop by Outdoor Recreation and pick up a copy of the Yokota Outdoor Adventure Program Ski and Snowboard Guidebook.

AD